

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 78

February 23, 1995, 3:23 p.m.  
Page S-3021 Temp. Record

## BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT/College Aid Exemption

**SUBJECT:** A Resolution Proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States . . . H.J. Res. 1. Hatch motion to table the Wellstone motion to refer with instructions.

### ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 60-35

**SYNOPSIS:** Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 62-63, 65-77, and 79-98.

As passed by the House, H. J. Res. 1, a resolution proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, is virtually identical to the balanced budget constitutional amendment that was considered last year by the Senate (see 103d Congress, second session, vote Nos. 47-48). The resolution: will require a three-fifths majority vote of both Houses of Congress to deficit spend or to increase the public debt limit; will require the President's annual proposed budget submission to be in balance; and will require a majority of the whole number of each House to approve any bill to increase revenue. Congress will be allowed to waive these requirements for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in effect. Congress will enforce and implement this amendment by appropriate legislation. The amendment will take effect in fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year beginning after its ratification, whichever is later. The States will have 7 years to ratify the amendment.

**The Wellstone motion to refer** the resolution to the Budget Committee would instruct the Committee to report the resolution back forthwith in status quo, and, at the earliest date possible, to issue a report, the text of which would be as follows: "It is the sense of the Committee that in enacting the policy changes necessary to achieve the more than \$1 trillion in deficit reduction necessary to achieve a balanced budget, Congress should take no action which would result in significant reductions in assistance to students who want an opportunity to attend college."

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Hatch moved to table the Wellstone motion. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the Wellstone motion; those opposing the motion to table favored the Wellstone motion.

**Those favoring** the motion to table contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (60)			NAYS (35)		NOT VOTING (5)		
Republicans (49 or 100%)	Democrats (11 or 24%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (35 or 76%)	Republicans (4)	Democrats (1)	
Abraham	Hutchison	Bingaman		Akaka	Inouye	Gramm- <sup>2</sup>	Heflin- <sup>2</sup>
Ashcroft	Jeffords	Bradley		Baucus	Johnston	Hatfield- <sup>2AY</sup>	
Bennett	Kassebaum	Campbell		Biden	Kennedy	Inhofe- <sup>2</sup>	
Bond	Kempthorne	Exon		Boxer	Kerry	McCain- <sup>2</sup>	
Brown	Kyl	Graham		Breaux	Kohl		
Burns	Lott	Hollings		Bryan	Lautenberg		
Chafee	Lugar	Kerrey		Bumpers	Leahy		
Coats	Mack	Lieberman		Byrd	Levin		
Cochran	McConnell	Nunn		Conrad	Mikulski		
Cohen	Murkowski	Reid		Daschle	Moseley-Braun		
Coverdell	Nickles	Simon		Dodd	Moynihan		
Craig	Packwood			Dorgan	Murray		
D'Amato	Pressler			Feingold	Pell		
DeWine	Roth			Feinstein	Pryor		
Dole	Santorum			Ford	Robb		
Domenici	Shelby			Glenn	Rockefeller		
Faircloth	Simpson			Harkin	Sarbanes		
Frist	Smith				Wellstone		
Gorton	Snowe						
Grams	Specter						
Grassley	Stevens						
Gregg	Thomas						
Hatch	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

**EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:**  
1—Official Buisness  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

**SYMBOLS:**  
AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

Here we go again--yet another debate over "how" future Congresses will balance the budget instead of over "whether." The Constitution sets out the framework of the government; Congress makes policy decisions within that framework. So far we have seen our colleagues attempt to dictate the policies of future Congresses regarding veterans, Social Security, homeless children, capital expenditures, and now college tuition programs. Frankly, the Senators who persist in these efforts need to face the alternative a little more honestly. Either we budget among our priorities, or we go broke. No other alternative exists. By the year 2013, according to 30 of the 32 members of the bipartisan Entitlements Commission, every penny of Federal revenue under current law will only be sufficient to fund entitlements and interest on the debt. The Senator from Minnesota is so sincere in quoting his statistics on college costs; we urge him for once to examine the consequences of this continued insistence on deficit spending. By 2013, the Federal Government will have no money for welfare, for education, for job training, for drug treatment, for law enforcement, for medical research, for infrastructure investments, for defense, for agriculture, for foreign assistance, or for any other discretionary program. The time now is not to dither about what budget priorities will be in the future when new Congresses with new Members will make those decisions. Future Congresses can and will determine their own priorities, regardless of what the Senator from Minnesota believes that the sense of the Budget Committee should be. The implication that is behind this series of amendments and motions is that the balanced budget amendment will hurt this or that special interest but that continued deficit spending will pose no threat. This implication is blatantly and dangerously false. We therefore urge our colleagues to table this latest attempt to set budget priorities before we even agree that we will constitutionally require a balanced budget.

**Those opposing the motion to table contended:**

Members like to talk about higher education being essential to a successful economy. Unfortunately, the dream of being able to send one's children to college is becoming a dream that is increasingly out of the reach of average Americans due to soaring costs. The total cost of attending a 4-year public institution currently averages about \$7,600 a year, and the average cost to go to a 4-year private institution is around \$16,000 a year. Tuition alone has increased more than 120 percent over the last 10 years. Further, largely because of the rising costs, it now is unusual for students to graduate in less than 5 years because so many students have to work while they are attending college even to be able to afford to go. Making the costs even more burdensome, the student body is no longer all young kids who can more easily bear spending almost all of their money on education--in fact, a full 45 percent of college students are now over 25 years old. Many of these older students have children. With the costs of higher education increasing enormously, Federal assistance for higher education should be strengthened, not cut. The Wellstone motion would express the sense of the Senate in favor of this simple commonsense principle. We hope that our colleagues will accept the logic of not being in favor of cutting educational aid when more aid is needed, and will join us in opposing the motion to table the Wellstone motion.